

ADVISORY REPORT

Bi-Monthly Newsletter of UnityPoint Health - Trinity & the QC CVEB



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More Community Support for VEAC

Support for the June 27 & 28 Quad Cities Veterans Experience Access Center continues to roll in. New financial and in-kind support is being provided by the following companies and organizations:

Honor - Sedona Technologies Government Services

Contributing - M.A.V.A. Hero Street Chapter 4

In-Kind - Generations at Rock Island



Story continues
on p.2

CVEB Co-Chairs Burl Randolph, Jr. and Sherri Behr DeVrieze, left, along with Trinity Health Foundation Director of Development Colleen Rafferty, right, accept a check on March 13 from IA/IL Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association, an Honor Sponsor of the QC VEAC. Presenting the check are President Natalie Linville-Mass and Past-President George Rivard.

VEAC, continued from p.1t

We are continually amazed at how generous the Quad Cities Community is. Thank you for supporting Veterans and transitioning military members!

We thank our presenting sponsor UnityPoint Health - Trinity, our Gold sponsor UnityPoint Health Freedom Run, and our Bronze sponsors St. Ambrose University, Black Hawk College, and John Deere Harvester Works.

To volunteer for this event, scan the QR code below, or contact erica.meier@unitypoint.org.

To learn more about the event and the other wonderful sponsors, see the flyer on pages 9 & 10 of this newsletter.



Some of the amazing services being offered at this year's VEAC include expanded numbers of Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) from two states and five counties who are experts in helping Veterans and transitioning military members navigate the many benefits and resources available. MetroLINK will be on hand to create ID passes for Veterans to ride the bus for free on the Illinois side of the Quad Cities. Two groups for women Veterans will sign up women to become members of Women Veterans of the Quad Cities or Tri-State Women Warriors.



New Logo for Women Veterans of the Quad Cities

The membership of Women Veterans of the Quad Cities (WVQC) has voted to approve a new logo for the organization as they approach the June anniversary of their group.

Thanks goes out to WVQC member and Navy Veteran Elle Peoples and LCS Coaching & Consulting, LLC, dba Elle On Main for creating the logo.

WVQC, an initiative of the CVEB, has grown to 42 active members with another 21 on the roster who have expressed an interest.

The group meets on the second Wednesday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at various locations. The next two events are on May 14 and June 11, locations TBD.

You can meet members of WVQC and sign up at the QC Veterans Experience Action Center on June 27 & 28, as well as Tri-State Women Warriors, friends from the Dubuque area.



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CVEB Member Spotlight

LTC Mary Ayres joined the CVEB in October 2024, standing in for initially and then replacing Capt. Jennah Janney, who has moved on to Fort Eustis, VA to be a medical company commander.

LTC Ayres is currently the officer in charge at the Woodson Health Clinic at the Rock Island Arsenal and serves as an Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner (APNP), seeing primary care patients. She arrived in June 2024, coming from Brooke Army Medical Center at Ft. Sam Houston where she was responsible for the largest troop medical center in the Army Medical Department (AMEDD).

She joined the Army Reserves in 1994, deploying to Mosul, Iraq 2003-2004 with an engineer battalion attached to the 101st Airborne Division.

In 2007, LTC Ayres joined the regular Army and served in the Army Nurse Corps at Walter Reed Army Medical Ctr. medical/oncology department.

A deployment to Herat, Afghanistan, in 2011 landed her at the 115th Combat Support Hospital, a Spanish military hospital, as a perioperative nurse. She was the only American operating nurse there, working with Spanish and Italian medical personnel, where they performed over 200 surgeries during her six-month assignment.

Her favorite assignment was at Madigan Army Medical Center from 2009-2013 where she was responsible for the care of pre-, intra-, and post-operative surgical patients. It was there she began her quest to green up the operating rooms through recycling, sustainment, and reduction of



medical waste. She presented a poster on their achievements, leading to her becoming a subject matter expert on greening the operating room and to Madigan garnering awards for their efforts.

She continued her greening efforts in sterile processing at Ft. Carson where she was also promoted to operating room head nurse and successfully conducted the first ever civilian operating nurse program.

LTC Ayres received her DNP degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; MPA at Troy University, Alabama; BSN at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA; and BS at University of WI-La Crosse. She recently became certified in lifestyle medicine.

She also serves on the board of the Quad Cities Health Initiative. She resides with her husband, a Veteran who served as an Army warrant officer and helicopter pilot and now is employed as a pilot with the University of Iowa Health System, and their daughter. She loves to exercise outside, specifically hiking, biking and running, and cooking and travel.

CVEB Member is Women of Influence Honoree

The Quad Cities Regional Business Journal is hosting the second annual Women of Influence Awards on May 29 at the Waterfront Convention Center. This event recognizes, honors, and celebrates 10 women who have made an impression on the Quad Cities community. These women are role models and leaders at work and in the community, mentoring and lifting up others, and trailblazing for future generations of influential women.

UnityPoint Health - Trinity Military Program Coordinator and CVEB Co-Chair Sherri Behr DeVrieze is one of the honorees.

The 2025 Women of Influence Honorees are:

Sherri Behr DeVrieze
Nicole Cisne Durbin
Dr. Allison Haskill
Angie Kendall
Marcy Mendenhall
Dr. Amy Novak
Rachel Pitchford
Caroline Ruhl
Tracy Schwind
Dora Villarreal



[Register for event](#)

Quad Cities CVEB Finalizes 3-Year Plan for the Future

The members of the Quad Cities Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB) recently finalized their three-year strategic plan, which brings local community resources together to improve outcomes for Veterans, service members, and their families.

The five objectives of the CVEB are:

Service Provider Training - Create and leverage training opportunities to improve knowledge, services, and understanding of Veteran needs.

Resource Development - Develop initiatives to assist community organizations and service providers in helping Veterans.

Education and Awareness - Provide educational opportunities to increase awareness of challenges Veterans face and establish connection points to share resources.

Engagement - Engage community partners and CVEB members to connect with Veterans and military members directly to provide services, share resources, and understand needs of Veterans, military members, and families who may be at risk of falling through the gaps.

Sustainability - Ensure the sustainability of the coalition and its programs and activities to maintain momentum and improve health outcomes.

Many strategies were identified and can be implemented during the 2025-2027 plan years.



Click the Facebook icon to follow the CVEB Facebook page.



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Next Meeting for CVEB members is June 19 at 8 a.m. in person at the Trinity Rock Island boardroom.

The work of the CVEB is supported by the Trinity Health Foundation Military and Veteran Services Fund. To donate visit [Trinity Health Foundation](#), select Other under designation, write in Military Fund.

Upcoming Events, Meetings & Observances

May - Month of the Military Caregiver

May - National Military Appreciation Month

May 1 - Silver Star Service Banner Day

May 1 - Loyalty Day

May 8 - VE Day

May 9 - Military Spouse Appreciation Day

May 10 - St. Ambrose University Ceremony Honoring Military Graduates, 4 p.m., Rogalski Center, SAU

May 11 - Mother's Day

May 12-17 - Armed Forces Week - see p.8 for details

May 13 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day

May 17 - Armed Forces Day

May 22 - Flag Placement Event for Memorial Day, 4 p.m.

Rock Island National Cemetery

May 26 - Memorial Day

May 26 - Memorial Day Ceremony, 10:45 a.m., Rock Island National Cemetery

May 27 - Flag pickup, 7:45 a.m., Rock Island National Cemetery

June - PTSD Awareness Month

June 6 - D-Day

June 8-14 - National Flag Week

June 12 - Women Veterans Day and 1-year Anniversary of Women Veterans of the Quad Cities

June 14 - Army Birthday

June 14 - Flag Day

June 15 - Father's Day

June 19 - Juneteenth

June 19 - 108th U.S. Colored Troops Memorial Ceremony, 10 a.m., Rock Island National Cemetery

June 23 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 27 - PTSD Awareness Day

June 27 & 28, 2025 - QC Veterans Experience Action Center, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Black Hawk College, Moline

July 3, Jackson County Veterans Affairs and Voy 61 Drive-In Theatre Veterans Appreciation Night, Hwy 61, Delmar, IA. Vendor show before the movie. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. Movie at 9 p.m. Free for Veterans and those in their vehicle. Free popcorn and small soda for Veterans.

Rock Island County Veterans Assistance Commission has New Superintendent

Congratulations to CVEB member Bradley Bigford who becomes the Superintendent for the Rock Island County Veterans Assistance Commission on May 12, when Todd Harlow retires. And thanks to Todd for his years of service to the CVEB and Rock Island County!

Trinity Emergency Department Welcomes Back Veteran Nurse

UnityPoint Health - Trinity welcomed back in March Walter DeBaker, BSN, RN, TNS, as supervisor, RN for the Trinity Quad Cities emergency departments.

Walter has 27 years of ED experience with 8 of those in leadership roles. In his new role, Walter will be instrumental in enhancing ED operations, supporting educational opportunities, aiding in retention of staff and morale, and improving the overall patient experience.

He originally joined Trinity's ED team in 2002, serving until 2022, when he pursued an opportunity as Director of Emergency Services at an East St. Louis hospital.

Walter is also an Army Veteran, beginning his career as a Hawk Missile Crewmember where he attained the rank of sergeant.



2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention ANNUAL REPORT - Part 2 of 2: Report Findings

- Suicide was the 12th-leading cause of death for Veterans in 2022. Suicide was the 2nd-leading cause of death for Veterans under age 45.
- There were 6,407 Veteran suicide deaths in 2022, three more than in 2021.
- In 2022, there were 271 suicides among female Veterans (80 fewer than in 2021) and 6,136 among male Veterans (83 more than in 2021).

To read the entire report, visit [2024 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#).

New CVEB Members

Welcome to several new CVEB members who add another layer of knowledge and support to the board.

Chaplain John Hernandez has been employed at UnityPoint Health - Trinity in Rock Island as a Chaplain for the past two years.

Retired Sergeant First Class Hernandez joined the U.S. Army in November 1988 at the age of 30. He completed Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Advanced Initial Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He was on the U.S. Army Drill and Ceremony team and participated in over 40 military funerals. He served during multiple tours around the world. His deployments include Operation Iraqi Freedom and OIF IV. He served as the Logistics Manager, Pre-Deployment Train Equipment at the Rock Island Arsenal in 2011. John retired from active duty in 2011, having served for 22 years.

After retiring from the military, he worked at a variety of positions, including the Army Sustainment Command at the Rock Island Arsenal in 2015. He graduated from St. Ambrose University majoring in Pastoral Theology. He also completed the Clinical Pastoral Education at UnityPoint Health - Trinity. He has been the youth director and the youth pastor at Grace Korean church in Moline for the past 7 years.



John Hernandez



Donald Wrenn

Donald Wrenn is the Director of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army Garrison, Rock Island Arsenal, joining the team in December 2023. He is the primary public affairs advisor to the garrison commander and staff. His responsibilities cover planning, coordinating and directing PA support for the garrison operations. These duties include community outreach, media relations, and digital communications efforts.

His Army Public Affairs journey started in 1986 when he enlisted as a journalist following his graduation from high school in Vancouver, WA. He retired from active duty in 2008 with 22 years of service after returning from a deployment to Iraq as the first sergeant of one of the Army's Mobile Public Affairs Detachments. Other assignments included materiel developer for the Army Public Affairs Center, detachment sergeant for the 11th Public Affairs Detachment, Public Affairs Chief at Fort Rucker, editor of Profile Magazine at the DoD High School News Service, Public Affairs Specialist at U.S. Special Operations Command, editor and journalist for Indianhead newspaper in Korea, and as a journalist at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center.

Donald is a lifetime member of the VFW and has been awarded the Ancient Order of Saint Gabriel, the patron saint of Public Affairs, by the Army Public Affairs Association.

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New CVEB Members

continued from p.6

Shawn Slavish has been a Military and Family Readiness Specialist with the Illinois Army National Guard for three and a half years. He and his team members staff the 13 Family Assistance Centers located throughout Illinois.

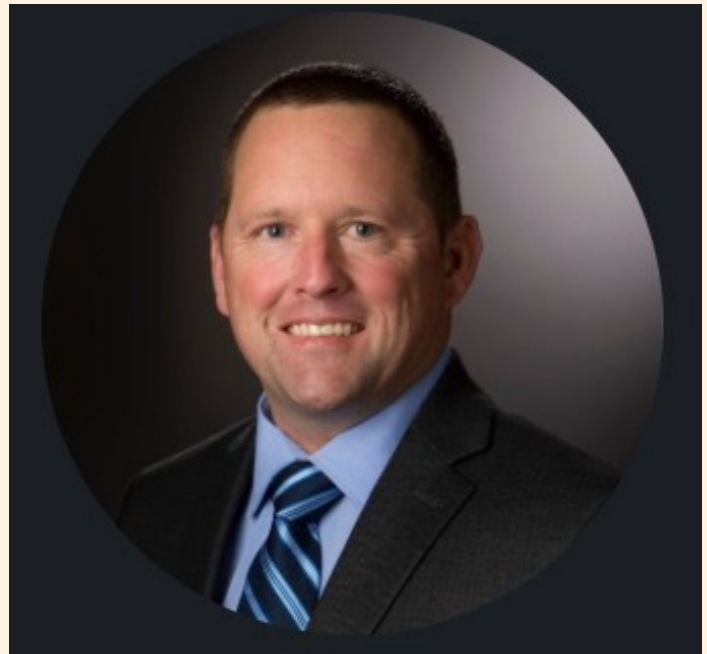
Shawn manages the Family Assistance Center located in the Milan Readiness Center in Milan, Illinois. In this capacity, he provides resources to soldiers and their family members who may be experiencing quality of life issues and need information or referrals to get the help they need. He also is responsible for monthly check-ins with family members of deployed guardsmen and helps with administrative duties for commanders and their volunteers for the Soldier and Family Readiness Group.

Shawn served in the Illinois Air National Guard from 1987 as a member of the 182nd Airlift Wing. In 2013 he deployed as a First Sergeant and was stationed in Bishkek, Krygyzstan. He retired from the Illinois Air National Guard in 2017 as a member of the 168th ASOS.

In civilian life, Shawn was a police officer for the City of Rock Island for 28 years, retiring as a lieutenant. Shawn and his wife Nicole are life-long residents of the Quad Cities and have 3 children.



Shawn Slavish



Parris Silvis

Parris Silvis, the new Assistant Superintendent with the Rock Island County Veterans Assistance Commission, is now a member of the CVEB, replacing Todd Harlow, who is retiring from the commission. Parris has been serving Veterans as a Veteran Service Officer for the past two years.

He is a retired active-duty Army National Guard Veteran with 25 years of service, including two deployments to Iraq and Egypt, and has served in many leadership roles throughout his career in the fields of logistics, human resources, and operations. Parris retired as a first sergeant in August 2022.

He has earned a bachelor's degree in Operation Management with a minor in Logistics Management. He has been married to Desirae for 24 years and has an 18-year-old son, Jack, who will be heading off to Illinois State University this fall. Parris enjoys serving Veterans in his capacity at RICO and looks forward to being part of the CVEB team serving our local Veterans with creative and supportive opportunities.

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New CVEB Members, continued from p.7

Colonel (Retired) Douglas W. Moore is an Illinois licensed attorney, and a member of the federal bar currently employed by Northrop Grumman as a military analyst. He also volunteers as the Vice President for the Rock Island Arsenal Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA).

During a 25-year career with the U.S. Army as a Judge Advocate, he practiced in a variety of multi-disciplinary legal areas ranging from criminal law and national security law to contract and fiscal law in positions of increasing responsibility to include: a federal prosecutor and a defense attorney; as senior legal advisors to combat organizations from the brigade to corps echelons; the Senior Counsel to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point; the Military Assistant to the Department of Defense General Counsel; and most recently the Staff Judge Advocate (General Counsel) to U.S. Army Sustainment Command and a Senior Counsel to First Army, Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois. He is a decorated combat Veteran of Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and accumulated ten years of overseas duty.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, he holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing & International Business from Miami University, Ohio; a Juris Doctorate in Law from Roger Williams University, Rhode Island; a Masters in Laws in Military Law from University of Virginia; and is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, Kansas. He resides in Bettendorf with his wife, Diane, and two daughters in college.



Douglas Moore

🎆 ARMED FORCES DAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE 🎆

📍 Rock Island Arsenal – Open to the Public!

🔥 Friday, May 16

- ◆ 4:00 PM – Packet Pick-Up & Keg Tapping 🍺
- ◆ 4:30 PM – Honor Among Wrestling 🤼
- ◆ 6:00 PM – America's Kids Run 🏃👧👦
- ◆ 7:00 PM – Live Band, Food & Music 🎵🍔

🚀 Saturday, May 17

- ◆ 6:30 AM – Late Race Registration 📝
- ◆ 9:00 AM – QC Crushers Auto Show 🚗👤
- ◆ 10:00 AM – 5K & 10K Races Begin 🏃🏆
- ◆ 11:30 AM – Award Ceremony with Live Music 🎵🏆
- ◆ 12:00 - 3:00 PM – More Live Bands 🎵🎸
- ◆ 4:00 PM – Honor Among Wrestling Returns! 🤼🔥
- ◆ 5:00 PM – More Live Music 🎵🥁
- ◆ Dusk – Spectacular Fireworks Show! 🌟

🌟 ALL DAY SATURDAY 🌟

🍷 Vendors & Food Trucks 🍔🍌

🚗 Trolley Pub Tours 🚗

🏛️ Quarters One Tours 🏛️

🧗 Rock Climbing & Kids/Adult Activities 🎯

🔥 **DON'T MISS OUT!** Join us for an epic weekend celebrating Armed Forces Day! Scan to volunteer or sign up for the run!

Free event (charges apply for food, drinks, and attractions, etc.)

Registration Information
Volunteer or race at the event:

[Get me registered](#)

Presented by



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Trinity



Quad Cities



June 27 & 28, 2025

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. each day, Black Hawk College, Moline, IL

Meet face-to-face with the VA to get claims assistance, enroll in healthcare, and access other VA and community services, such as mental health, suicide prevention, dental, education, and much more. A collaboration between UnityPoint Health - Trinity, QC Community Veterans Engagement Board, U.S.

Dept. of Veterans Affairs, state, county, & local organizations, & the community.

Veterans, Transitioning Military, spouses and caregivers are encouraged to attend.

Bring DD-214 and documents related to new or current claims.

Like the CVEB Facebook page for updates. <https://www.facebook.com/quadcitiesCVEB>



St AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY



JOHN DEERE



Powering Business Worldwide



SEDONA TECHNOLOGIES
GOVERNMENT SERVICES



ARCONIC



NDIA Iowa-Illinois
Chapter



Constellation



M.A.V.A. Hero Street
Chapter 4



QC Custom Tees

Generations
at Rock Island

The Advisory Report is a publication of UnityPoint Health - Trinity and the Quad Cities Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB)

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VA Services

Veteran Benefits Administration

Veterans Health Administration

- Caregiver Support
- Enrollment / Eligibility
- Geriatrics & Extended Care
- Home Based Primary Care
- Intimate Partner Violence AP
- Mental Health
- My HealtheVet
- Patient Experience / Patient Advocate
- QC Community Based Outpatient Clinic
- QC Community Resources & Referral Center
- Suicide Prevention
- Travel
- Whole Health
- Women's Health

National Cemetery Administration

Quad Cities Vet Center



To volunteer for the event, email erica.meier@unitypoint.org or scan QR Code.

Community Services

American Red Cross
 Anonymously Grateful
 Black Hawk College
 Cedar County Veterans Affairs
 Dubuque County Veterans Affairs
 Eastern Iowa Community Colleges
 Elizabeth Dole Foundation
 Goodwill of the Heartland
 Gray Matters Collective - Veterans Chapter
 Home Base Iowa
 Home Instead
 Illinois Department of Employment Security
 Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs
 Impact Life (on-site blood donation)
 Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs
 I-Smile Silver, Scott Co. Health Dept.
 Jackson County Veterans Affairs (Friday)
 MetroLINK
 National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI)
 Prairie State Legal
 QCVN (Quad Cities Veterans Network)
 QC Student Veterans Advocacy Group
 Quad Cities Veterans Outreach Center
 REBOOT Recovery of the Quad Cities
 Robert Young Center
 Rock Island Arsenal Morale, Welfare, Rec.
 Rock Island Arsenal Visitor Welcome Center
 Rock Island Veterans Assistance Commission
 Safe Families
 St. Ambrose University
 Scott County Veterans Affairs (Friday)
 Second Chance Forge
 Step of Faith Canines
 Trinity Freedom Run
 Trinity Volunteer Services / Caring Canines
 Tri-State Women Warriors
 Uncommon Valor
 UnityPoint Health PACE Senior Services
 UnityPoint Health - Trinity

- Oncology / Cardiology Services

 UnityPoint Health Freedom Run
 Vet Fest 2025
 VFW Post 2153, Willard L. Velie, Jr. (Saturday only)
 Vietnam Veterans of America #776
 Women Veterans of the Quad Cities



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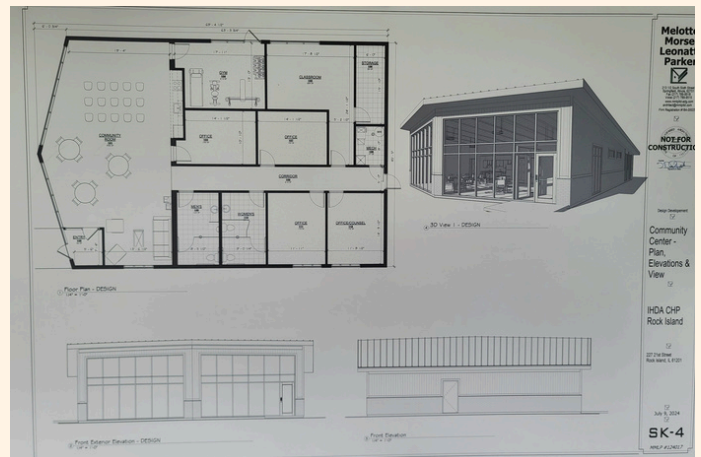
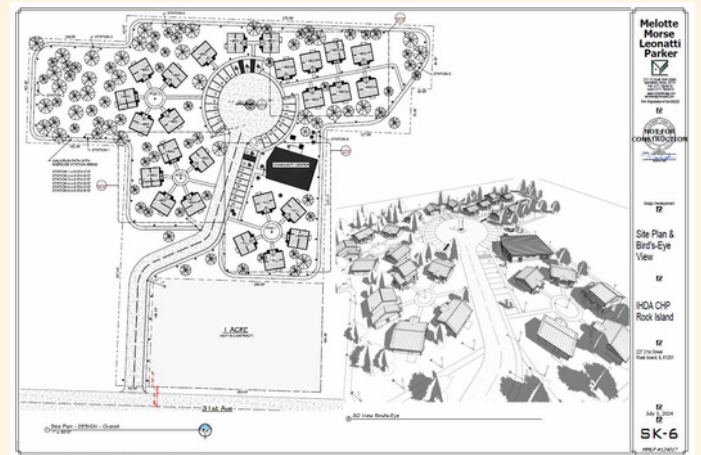


Groundbreaking on Affordable Housing for Veterans in Rock Island

Project partners broke ground on April 25 in Rock Island on an exciting neighborhood for military Veterans. The \$8.6 million project will build 25 modern, affordable homes, as well as a community center, at 950 31st Avenue.

Community Home Partners (CHP) and CEO John Chow lead the project. CHP provides leadership and innovative, affordable housing solutions for the community. Tammy Pauwels, CHP board member and UnityPoint Health - Trinity Community Health Program Coordinator, was one of many who attended the groundbreaking. She joined the CHP board in 2022 because, "Housing authorities play a crucial role in shaping the physical and social landscape of a community. You can directly impact lives of individuals and families by contributing to the advancement of providing safe and affordable community housing solutions."

When asked how the Veteran Homes project came about, Tammy said, "There is a great need for affordable and permanent housing for our Veterans within our communities across the country. This will be the first permanent and affordable housing development for our Veterans in the City of Rock Island."



Tammy Pauwels, Community Home Partners board member and UnityPoint Health - Trinity Community Health Program Coordinator

continued on p. 12

Housing for Veterans, continued from p. 11

There will be a tenant selection process three to six months prior to construction completion.

The project is funded through a combination of state and federal resources.



Veterans participating in the groundbreaking include from left, Brad Bigford and Parris Silvis from Rock Island County Veterans Assistance Commission, and Elle Peoples, member of Women Veterans of the Quad Cities



Parris Silvis and Brad Bigford from Rock Island County Veterans Assistance Commission. Both are also CVEB members.

“There is a crisis across the country for the fundamental needs of affordable housing for our veterans, seniors, and families. We must bring attention to the forefront and collectively work together to seriously address the issues.”

~ Tammy Pauwels, Community Home Partners board member and UnityPoint Health - Trinity Community Health Program Coordinator



Also attending but not in a photo was CVEB member Karen Abendroth from the IA City VA Health Care System Community Resource & Referral Center

Todd Harlow, current Superintendent of the Rock Island County Veterans Assistance Commission and outgoing CVEB member, was one of the speakers at the groundbreaking.

